I CLAIM:

1.   A method for controlling access of a user to a telecommunications network via a gateway server having a server communications device and a first data structure comprising:

5   the gateway server receiving a profile identifier;

the gateway server accessing a profile stored in a database at the first data structure based on the profile identifier, the profile containing at least one access criterion;

if all the access criteria are satisfied, the gateway server allowing the user access
10   to the telecommunications network; and

if any access criteria are not satisfied, the gateway server denying the user access to the telecommunications network.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said access criterion is the time of
15   day.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said access criterion is the day of the week.

20   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said profile additionally contains an account balance available to the user and the gateway server continuously decrements said account balance by the time elapsed during access to the telecommunications network.

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5.   In the method of claim 1 in which the user communicates to the gateway server
via a public switched telephone network, the step of receiving a profile identifier
comprising the gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from a
public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which a user
5   is connecting.

6.   A method for controlling access of a computer terminal having a terminal
communications device connected to telecommunications lines to a computer network
via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device
10   accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, comprising:

providing computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable
media storing an address for accessing said gateway server;

providing a database at the first data structure storing at least one profile
correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including an access criterion;

15   the computer terminal accessing said gateway server at the predetermined
address via said telecommunications lines;

the gateway server receiving a profile identifier at said server communications
device;

the gateway server accessing a profile associated with the profile identifier
20   received;

the gateway server determining whether the access criterion is satisfied;

if all the access criterion in a profile associated with a requesting computer

terminal are satisfied, the gateway server allowing the requesting computer terminal

access to the computer network; and

if the access criterion in a profile associated with a requesting computer terminal

5　　are not satisfied, the gateway server denying the requesting computer terminal access to

the computer network.

7.　　The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of said access criterion is the time of

day.

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8.　　The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of said access criterion is the day of

the week.

9.　　The method of claim 6 wherein said profile additionally contains an account

15　　balance available to the computer terminal and the gateway server continuously

decrements said account balance by the time elapsed during access to the computer

network.

10.　　In the method of claim 6 in which at least one of the computer terminals

20　　communicates to the gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step

of receiving a profile identifier comprising the gateway server receiving automatic

number identification data from a public switched telephone network identifying the

telephone number from which a computer terminal is connecting.

11.   A system for controlling access of a plurality of computer terminals to a

computer network, comprising:

a gateway server having access to the computer network, said gateway server

having a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a

predetermined address;

a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said

public communications lines;

computer readable media at said computer terminal, the computer readable

media storing:

(a)   an address for accessing said gateway server; and

(b)   programming instructions directing said computer terminal to

access said gateway server at the stored address via said telecommunications

lines; and

a first data structure at the gateway server storing:

(a)   a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile

identifier, said profile including an access criterion;

(b)   programming instructions directing the receipt of a profile

identifier at said server communications device;

(c)   programming instructions directing the accessing of a profile

identified by said profile identifier;

(d)   programming instructions determining whether said access

criterion is satisfied;

5   (e)   programming instructions disconnecting the computer terminal if

said access criterion is not satisfied; and

(f)   programming instructions allowing the computer terminal

computer network access if said access criterion is satisfied.

10   12.   The system of claim 11 wherein at least one of said access criterion is the time

of day.

13.   The system of claim 11 wherein at least one of said access criterion is the day of

the week.

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14.   The system of claim 11 wherein said profile additionally contains an account

balance available to the user and the gateway server continuously decrements said

account balance by the time elapsed during access to the computer network.

20   15.   In the system of claim 14 in which said computer terminal includes a display,

the system further comprising programming instructions stored at the first data structure

directing the gateway server to transmit data representing the account balance to the

computer terminal for display thereat.

16.   The system of claim 11 wherein said telecommunications lines include a public

switched telephone network and said profile identifier includes automatic number

identification data from said public switched telephone network identifying the

telephone number from which a computer terminal is connecting.

17.   A method for controlling access of a computer terminal having a terminal

communications device connected to telecommunications lines to a computer network

via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device

accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, comprising:

providing computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable

media storing an address for accessing said gateway server;

providing a database at the first data structure storing at least one profile

correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including an access time period;

the computer terminal accessing said gateway server at the predetermined

address via said telecommunications lines;

the gateway server receiving a profile identifier at said server communications

device;

providing a chronometer at the gateway server and determining the time of day

of the computer terminal access;

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the gateway server accessing a profile associated with the profile identifier

received;

the gateway server determining whether the computer terminal access has

occurred during the access time period;

5   if the computer terminal access has occurred during the access time period in the

profile, the gateway server allowing the requesting computer terminal access to the

computer network; and

if the computer terminal access has not occurred during the access time period in

the profile, the gateway server denying the requesting computer terminal access to the

10   computer network.

18.   In the method of claim 17 in which at least one of the computer terminals

communicates to the gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step

of receiving information identifying the computer terminal comprising the gateway

15   server receiving automatic number identification data from a public switched telephone

network identifying the telephone number from which a computer terminal is

requesting.

19.   A system for controlling access of a plurality of computer terminals to a

20   computer network, comprising:

a gateway server having access to the computer network, said gateway server

having a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a

predetermined address;

a chronometer communicating with said gateway server;

5   a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said

public communications lines;

computer readable media at said computer terminal, the computer readable

media storing:

       (a)   an address for accessing said gateway server; and

10   (b)   programming instructions directing said computer terminal to

access said gateway server at the stored address via said telecommunications

lines; and

a first data structure at the gateway server storing:

       (a)   a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile

15   identifier, said profile including an access time period;

       (b)   programming instructions directing the receipt of a profile

identifier at said server communications device;

       (c)   programming instructions directing communication with said

chronometer to determine the time of day of the computer terminal access;

20   (d)   programming instructions directing the accessing of a profile

identified by said profile identifier;

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(e)   programming instructions determining whether the profile

identifier was received during the access time period;

(f)   programming instructions disconnecting the computer terminal if

computer terminal access has occurred during the access time period; and

5   (g)   programming instructions allowing the computer terminal

computer network access if the computer terminal access has not occurred

during the access time period.

20.   In the system of claim 19 wherein said telecommunications lines include a

10   public switched telephone network and said profile identifier includes automatic number

identification data from said public switched telephone network identifying the

telephone number from which a computer terminal is connecting.

21.   A method for controlling access of a computer terminal having a terminal

15   communications device connected to telecommunications lines to a computer network

via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device

accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, comprising:

providing computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable

media storing an address for accessing said gateway server;

20   providing a database at the first data structure storing at least one profile

correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including an account balance;

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the computer terminal accessing said gateway server at the predetermined

address via said telecommunications lines;

the gateway server receiving a profile identifier at said server communications

device;

5   the gateway server accessing a profile associated with the profile identifier

received;

the gateway server determining whether a balance remains in the account in the

accessed profile;

if an account balance remains in the profile, the gateway server allowing the

10   requesting computer terminal access to the computer network; and

if no account balance remains in the profile, the gateway server denying the

requesting computer terminal access to the computer network.

22.   In the method of claim 21 in which said computer terminal includes a display,

15   the method further comprising the gateway server transmitting data to the computer

terminal representing the account balance for display thereat.

23.   In the method of claim 21 in which at least one of the computer terminals

communicates to the gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step

20   of receiving information identifying the computer terminal comprising the gateway

server receiving automatic number identification data from a public switched telephone

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network identifying the telephone number from which a computer terminal is

requesting.

24.   The method of claim 21 further comprising the gateway server timing the

computer network access and continuously decrementing said account balance by the

time elapsed during access to the computer network.

25.   A system for controlling access of a plurality of computer terminals to a

computer network, comprising:

a gateway server having access to the computer network, said gateway server

having a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a

predetermined address;

a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said

public communications lines;

computer readable media at said computer terminal, the computer readable

media storing:

(a)   an address for accessing said gateway server; and

(b)   programming instructions directing said computer terminal to

access said gateway server at the stored address via said telecommunications

lines; and

a first data structure at the gateway server storing:

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(a)   a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile

identifier, said profile including an account balance;

(b)   programming instructions directing the receipt of a profile

identifier at said server communications device;

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(c)   programming instructions directing the accessing of a profile

identified by said profile identifier;

(d)   programming instructions determining whether a balance remains

in the account in the accessed profile;

(e)   programming instructions disconnecting the computer terminal if

10   no account balance remains; and

(f)   programming instructions allowing the computer terminal

computer network access if an account balance remains.

26.   In the system of claim 25 in which said computer terminal includes a display,

15   the system further comprising programming instructions stored at the first data structure

directing the gateway server to transmit data representing the account balance to the

computer terminal for display thereat.

27.   In the system of claim 25 in which at least one of the computer terminals

20   communicates to the gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the

programming instructions directing receipt of information a computer terminal

comprising the gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from the

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public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which the computer terminal is requesting.

28.   A method for controlling access of a computer terminal, said computer terminal operating under the direction of an operating system, having a terminal communications device connected to public telecommunications lines to a computer network via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device accessible via public telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, comprising:

providing removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable media storing an address for accessing said gateway server and a profile identifier;

providing a database at the first data structure storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including an access criterion;

programming instructions at the removable computer readable media directing the operating system at the computer terminal to access said gateway server at the stored address via said telecommunications lines without storing said programming instructions at the computer terminal;

programming instructions at the removable computer readable media directing the operating system at the computer terminal to transmit the stored profile identifier to the gateway server without storing said programming instructions at the computer terminal;

the gateway server accessing a profile associated with the profile identifier

received;

the gateway server determining whether the access criterion in the profile is

satisfied;

5   if said access criterion is not satisfied, the gateway server denying the requesting

computer terminal access to the Internet;

if said access criterion is satisfied, the gateway server allowing the requesting

computer terminal access to the Internet; and

monitoring said Internet access and disconnecting said computer terminal if at

10   any time during the Internet access said access criterion is not satisfied.

29.   The method of claim 28 wherein the access criterion is the account balance of

time.

15   30.   The method of claim 28 wherein the profile further includes predefined content

criteria, the method further comprising monitoring the Internet access and intercepting

any Internet transmissions defined in the content criteria.

31.   The method of claim 28 wherein said computer terminal utilizes an Internet

20   browser to receive Internet transmissions, the method further comprising programming

instructions at said removable computer readable media directing the launch of said

Internet browser and directing the Internet browser to a predetermined Internet address.

32.   A system for controlling a user's access to the Internet, comprising:

a gateway server having access to the Internet, said gateway server having a

server communications device accessible via public telecommunications lines at a

predetermined address;

5   a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said

public telecommunications lines, said computer terminal operating under the direction

of an operating system;

removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, the computer

readable media storing:

10   (a)   an address for accessing said gateway server;

(b)   programming instructions directing said operating system to

access said gateway server at the stored address via said public

telecommunications lines without storing said programming instructions at said

computer terminal;

15   (c)   a profile identifier; and

(d)   programming instructions directing the transmission of said

profile identifier to said gateway server without storing said programming

instructions at said computer terminal; and

a first data structure at said gateway server storing:

20   (a)   a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile

identifier, said profile including an access criterion;

(b)   programming instructions directing the receipt of a profile

identifier at said server communications device and the access of a profile

identified by said profile identifier;

(c)   programming instructions determining whether said access

5   criterion is satisfied;

(d)   programming instructions disconnecting said computer terminal

if said access criterion is not satisfied;

\ (e)   programming instructions allowing the computer terminal

Internet access if said access criterion is satisfied; and

10   (f)   programming instructions monitoring said Internet access and

disconnecting said computer terminal if at any time during the Internet access

said access criterion is not satisfied.

33.   The system of claim 32 wherein the access criterion is the account balance of

15   time.

34.   The system of claim 32 wherein the profile further includes predefined content

criteria, the system further comprising programming instructions at the gateway server

directing the gateway server to monitor the Internet access and intercept any Internet

20   transmissions defined in the content criteria.

35.   The system of claim 32 further comprising:

Internet browser at said computer terminal receiving Internet transmissions; and

programming instructions at said removable computer readable media directing

the launch of said Internet browser and directing the Internet browser to a predetermined

Internet address after Internet access is allowed by said gateway server.